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In the Claims

1   1.   [Original] A method for managing printer component inventories,
2   comprising:
3   defining one or more printer component rules for one or more printers in a
4   first organization and for one or more printers in a second organization, each printer
5   component rule defining a printer component event that, when it occurs, indicates
6   that the printer component requires replacement;
7   monitoring printer components in the printers in the first organization and the
8   second organization to detect an occurrence of a printer component event defined
9   by a printer component rule; and
10   replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected in
11   a printer.

1   2.   [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, where n the replacing the
2   printer component further comprises ordering a replacement component to be
3   shipped to a location of the printer in which the printer component event was
4   detected.

1   3.   [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the replacing the
2   printer component further comprises shipping a replacement component to a location
3   of the printer in which the printer component event was detected.

1   4.   [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printer
2   component further comprises a printer component selected from the following list of
3   printer components: toner cartridge; ink cartridge; ribbon cartridge; dry medium
4   cartridge; ink bladder; photoconductor; drum; belt; developer assembly; cleaning
5   roller; oiling roller; transfer assemblies; print head.

1   5.   [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
2   the printer component is a toner cartridge for a laser printer; and
3   the printer component event is a low toner condition in the toner cartridge.

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1   6.   [Original]   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising

2   presenting an interface to the first organization and to the second organization, the

3   interface allowing the first organization and the second organization to define the

4   printer component rules for each respective organization.

1   7.   [Original]   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein detecting the

2   printer component event further comprises receiving notification from an

3   organization that the printer component event has occurred in one of the printers in

4   the organization.

1   8.   [Original]   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring

2   further comprises periodically polling the printer components of the printers in the

3   first and second organizations.

1   9.   [Original]   A system for managing printer components in one or more

2   organizations, comprising:

3   a processor;

4   memory;

5   connection means for establishing at least one electronic connection with a

6   first organization and at least one electronic connection with a second organization,

7   each organization having at least one printer that includes one or more printer

8   components;

9   a rules-based printer component management system configured to monitor

10   the printers in the first and second organizations for the occurrence of a printer

11   component event in a printer component, the occurrence of the printer component

12   event indicating that the printer component requires replacement; and

13   replacing the printer component in which the printer component event

14   occurred.

1   10.   [Original]   The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising an

2   order module configured to order a replacement component, and wherein the

3   replacing the printer component further comprises ordering a replacement

4   component to replace the printer component.

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1   11.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

2   a rules table that stores printer events for one or more printers in one or more

3   organizations; and

4   an interface module configured to present an interface to the one or more

5   organizations, allowing each organization to enter rules in the ru es table for the one

6   or more printers of the organization.

1   12.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection

2   means further comprises a network interface card that provides a connection with a

3   network.

1   13.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection

2   means is a modem that provides a telephone line connectior with a computing

3   device.

1   14.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based

2   printer component management system monitors the printers by periodically polling

3   a status of the printer components in the printers for the occurrence of a printer

4   component event.

1   15.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based

2   printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a

3   notification from the printer that a printer component event has occurred.

1   16.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based

2   printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a

3   notification from the first or second organization that a printer component event has

4   occurred in an organization printer.

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1   17.   [Previously Presented] Computer-readable media containing computer-
2   executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the following
3   steps:
4   monitoring printer component conditions in one or more printers of more than
5   one organization;
6   referring to printer component rules defined for the one or more printers to
7   determine if a printer component event has occurred that indicates that a
8   replacement component is required for the printer component in which the printer
9   component event has occurred, the printer component event occurring when printer
10   component conditions satisfy at least one of the printer component rules; and
11   replacing the printer component that requires replacement with a replacement
12   component.

1   18.   [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises ordering the
3   replacement component to be shipped to a location of the printer in which the
4   replacement component is required.

1   19.   [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises shipping the
3   replacement component to a location of the printer in which the replacement
4   component is required.

1   20.   [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, further comprising additional computer-executable instructions that, when
3   executed on a computer, perform the following step:
4   presenting an interface to the organizations allowing each organization to
5   define printer component rules for the printers of the organization.

1   21.   [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component conditions further comprises
3   periodically polling the printers to determine the printer component conditions.

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1   22.   [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component conditions further comprises
3   receiving notification from an organization when a printer component event has
4   occurred in a printer in the organization.

1   23.   [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2   monitoring comprises monitoring using processing circuitry.

1   24.   [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2   monitoring comprises monitoring using an entity remotely spatially located from at
3   least one of the printers of at least one of the organizations.

1   25.   [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2   monitoring comprises monitoring the printer components in a plurality of the printers
3   of the first and second organizations using a single entity.

1   26.   [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2   rules-based printer component management system comprises a single entity
3   configured to monitor the plurality of printers via the connection means.

1   27.   [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2   rules-based printer component management system comprises a single entity
3   remotely spatially located from at least one of the printers of at least one of the
4   organizations.

1   28.   [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2   rules-based printer component management system is configured to store thresholds
3   for a plurality of printers of the first and second organizations and to communicate
4   with the printers.

1   29.   [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the
2   ordering comprises ordering responsive to the occurrence of the printer component
3   event of one of the printers.

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1   30.   [Previously Presented]   The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 17, wherein the monitoring comprises, using the computer, monitoring the
3   printer component conditions in a plurality of printers of a plurality of organizations.

1   31.   [Previously Presented]   The computer-readable media as recited in
2   claim 30, wherein the computer is remotely spatially located from at least one of the
3   printers of at least one of the organizations.